

**A clean environment is
important to all of us!**

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water, and the pollutants it carries, flows directly into creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

In recent years, sources of water pollution, like industrial waters from factories, have been greatly reduced. However, now the majority of water pollution occurs from things like: cars leaking oil; fertilize from farms, lawns and gardens; failing septic tanks; pet waste; and residential car washing into the storm drains and into the ocean and waterways.

All these sources add up to a pollution problem! But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to **pollution solution!**



Pet Waste photo is used courtesy of the Water Quality Consortium, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the Cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma

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**REMEMBER
ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN!**



City of Imperial Beach
Storm Water Protection Program
825 Imperial Beach Boulevard
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

**Storm Water Hotline:
(619) 424-4095**



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Pet Waste



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Storm Water Protection Program**

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What's the problem with pet waste?

Pet waste is a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It's a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. This bacteria gets washed into the storm drain and ends up in our creeks, lagoons, and ocean. The bacteria ends up in shellfish living in these water bodies. People who eat those shellfish may get very sick.

Preliminary studies show that dog and cat waste can contribute up to 25% of the harmful bacteria found in our local lagoons.

Be responsible and clean up after your pets.

It's easy as **1-2-3!**

1. Bring a bag.
2. Clean it up.
3. Dispose of waste properly in toilet or trash.



How can YOU help keep our environment clean?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. YOU can help keep our ocean, creeks and lagoons clean by applying the following tips:

- Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them.
- Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently.
- Pick up after your pets before cleaning patios, driveways, and other hard surface areas. Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter.



The best way to dispose of pet waste is to flush it down the toilet because it gets treated by a sewage treatment plant.

Other disposal methods for pet waste include sealing it in a bag and placing the bag in trash or burying small quantities in your yard to decompose. Be sure to keep it away from vegetable gardens.

